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ABSTRACT

Essays and reflections were gathered to create a guide to the college experience for African American students. A survey of the opinions and attitudes of over 1,500 black students at colleges and universities asked what situations or problems confronted them in being admitted to colleges and what problems they encountered in their first year at college. In addition, 250 in-depth interviews with black students were conducted. The situation and problems were organized into themes. Respected black professional educators were asked to write short essays on these themes and to use informal language aimed at youth and families who may not have attended college. Part I discusses "How To Succeed in College" in 14 sections, each of which describes one of the following essential steps in the process: (1) college preparation; (2) choosing a college; (3) beginning the college selection process; (4) obtaining financing; (5) the black athlete; (6) housing; (7) choosing a major; (8) first weeks on campus; (9) race relations; (10) African and Caribbean students; (11) study habits; (12) handling stress and frustration; (13) coping with academic difficulty; and (14) legal and financial aid and affirmative action. Part II contains the personal stories of 27 college students and graduates. Part III is a college and university directory, which also addresses what students should ask recruiters and provides a sample letter to recruiters. (JB)

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